

AA-768

Maryland House of Correction

Jessup

Public (restricted access)

1874-79; alterations 1898,
1902, 1928, 1954

The Maryland House of Correction, the design of Baltimore architect George Frederick, was built during the period 1874-1879. The original structure, consisting of north and west wings radiating from a center hall, is a four story brick and stone structure with hipped, slate roofs and heavy bracketed cornice. Its high-quality Italianate design is unusual in Anne Arundel County and most ornamental details remain intact in spite of many additions to the original buildings, the dates of which are indicated above. The establishment of the House of Correction parallels the growth of the penal reform movement in Maryland in the 1870s and recognition of need for a place of rehabilitation for the lesser offenders whose numbers were already over-crowding the City Jail and State Penitentiary in Baltimore.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Maryland House of Correction

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Jessup

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Anne Arundel

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☒ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of Maryland

Telephone #: 321-3686

STREET & NUMBER

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

CITY, TOWN

Suite 500, One Investment Place
Towson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21204**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Anne Arundel County Courthouse

Liber #: See attached chain
Folio #: of title for
references

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE
Maryland 21401**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☒ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☐ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE _____**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Maryland House of Correction occupies 375 acres of land approximately one half mile west of the town of Jessup near U.S. Route 1, equidistant to Baltimore and Washington. The House of Correction is a large but tightly woven complex of brick buildings built for the most part over the period 1874-1956.

The original structure, the design of Baltimore architect George Frederick, was completed in 1879. It consists of a four story hipped roof center hall with two three story gable-roofed wings radiating at right angles from its west and north sides. The wings have the exterior appearance of three stories; however, they actually contain no floor but tiers of steel cell blocks. These tiers rest on four inch poured concrete slabs over steel plates. The exterior walls in both wings are 28" thick. Center hall is a simple shell except for offices in the attic story, and serves as a hub for interior movements among the connecting wings.

The extreme north end of north wing terminates with a three story gable roofed brick building on stone foundation, placed perpendicularly to the north end of the cell block. It is six bays wide on its front (north) facade and three bays wide on its east and west sides. Window on all three free sides are 1/1 sash with stone segmental arches with keystones and stone sills. The entrance is in the third bay from the east at first floor level. Seven stone steps lead up from street level to the barred doorway, surmounted by a segmental arch identical to those over the windows. Ornately milled wood trim, painted white, comprises the cornice and gable trimming, and occurs as a continuing motif on most of the other buildings in the complex. The section of north wing between the south end building and center hall is 13 bays long. Window bays from first to third floors are entirely covered by bars. Each bay is topped with a rounded stone arch. An ornate milled cornice crosses the facade above the window arches. The north wing contains an auditorium and five tiers of steel cells which comprise cell block "C".

The original west wing is 11 bays long and terminates with what is still known as the "front", and may have been the original main entrance to the House of Correction. This "front" section consists simply of a stone ground floor entryway surmounted by stone pediment. Thick Doric columns supporting the pediment flank a barred door. West wing has the same window treatment and cornice detail as north wing.

At the extreme west end of west wing is a newer building (cornerstone 1928) in the same style as the original wings and center hall. It is a four story building, the three upper floors constructed of brick and the ground floor of granite. The building is square, three bays wide on each side, with window bays of the upper three floors covered with bars, surrounded with stone trim and topped by rounded stone arches. At ground floor on the north facade is a stone pedimented doorway identical to the entrance on the east facade of the west wing.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

Maryland House of Correction
Anne Arundel County
Maryland
Description
Continuation Sheet #1

AA-768

Ground floor windows all around the building have been blocked. A band of stone molding surrounds the building between the third floor window arches and the small attic windows. The ornate wooden cornice of the center hall and wings surrounds all sides of the building under the hipped roofline. The west wing contains cell blocks "E" and "F" and some administrative offices.

South wing (erected 1889) connects the south side of center hall with HIJ Dormitory, and contains four tiers of cells above a ground floor recreation hall. These cell tiers differ from those of north and west wings in that they are not constructed of steel. The cell blocks are composed of 4" thick concrete walled cells with slab floors supported by column and beam framing on the ground level. The cell block structure apparently supports the roof.¹ Little of south wing is visible from outside the complex because of visual encroachment of newer buildings on the south, west and east sides and enclosure of the fenced yard on the north. A distant view of part of the south wing from the southwest corner of the complex reveals that it is the same in its style of building and ornamentation (slate tiled hipped roof, stone segmental arch and ornate bracketed cornice) as original north and west wings. South wing was the first major addition to the complex, erected after appeals to the State Legislature as early as 1893 by the House of Correction's Board of Directors and Prisoners' Aid Society for a new wing to allow separation of men and women inmates.² On all sides of the wing, second and third floor windows are square, severely plain and covered with bars. The fourth floor windows have rounded tops and are placed close under the bracketed cornice in characteristic Italianate fashion, but like the windows of the lower floors, they are untrimmed and barred. HIJ Dormitory, an inmate housing wing, is apparently accessible only through south wing, since there are no exterior doorways. Access into the interior of the complex was not possible, and thus no interior description is included.

A number of newer two and three story buildings have been added across the eastern side of the complex, that is, onto the east facades of the north and south wings and center hall. These buildings, generally utilitarian in nature and of undistinguished design, house shops and schools (east of south wing), main dining room and kitchen (east of center hall) and the hospital (east of north wing).

East wing (completed 1902) extends from the center of the east facade of the original north wing. Because of visual encroachment of newer buildings and a high brick wall which encircles the eastern side of the complex, only the third floor and roof of east wing's north facade is unobstructed to view. The windows are barred, with stone sills and no ornamental arches or lintels. A wooden cornice matching that on the original building crosses the facade close above the third floor windows. The gabled wing terminates with a square brick building, also gable roofed, trimmed with ornate cornice, and placed perpendicular to the rest of the wing. East wing presently serves as commissary and receiving facility.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

Maryland House of Correction
Anne Arundel County
Maryland
Description
Continuation Sheet #2

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HIJ Dormitory was the last major addition to the House of Correction (1954). It is placed perpendicular to and connects with the southwest corner of south wing. The exterior walls of HIJ Dormitory are 12" poured cement between steel columns covered with 4" brick veneer. The wing is four stories tall, with ground floor faced with granite. The rear sections of the north and south facades are 14 bays long; the front building placed perpendicular to the wing is three bays long. The rear (east) facade is three bays wide. Windows at basement level are barred and have no trim.

¹Carter, Goble, Roberts, Inc., Architectural Consultants, Feasibility Study for Improving the House of Correction and Maryland Penitentiary, 1980.

²Baltimore Sun, May 5, 1893, and Laws of Maryland, 1898, Chapter 219.

| PERIOD | | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Penology | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

Original structure 1874

SPECIFIC DATES Major Additions: 1898, BUILDER/ARCHITECT
1902, 1928, 1954

George Frederick

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Maryland House of Correction was designed by George Frederick, a Baltimore architect who also designed the City Hall at Baltimore (1866-75), considered the finest municipal building in the country at that time. Frederick studied under and worked for the Baltimore firm of Lind and Murdock until 1862 when he became independent. Frederick designed numerous other public buildings in Baltimore, the U.S. Marine Hospital, the First National Bank, and the C & P Telephone Exchange. In addition, in his capacity as design supervisor for Baltimore City parks 1864-96, Frederick also designed the Edgar Allan Poe monument for the Westminster Church and collaborated with John H. B. Latrobe on numerous structures in Druid Hill Park in Baltimore.

Frederick's original buildings and the major additions of 1898, 1902, 1928 and 1956 which match the original structure fairly successfully make the House of Correction an extremely high quality example of civic architecture. Building floor plans, roof designs, and ornamental details such as stylized curved lintels and keystones over windows and richly detailed bracketed cornices (all intact and in good condition) make the House of Correction notable and excellent example of Italianate architecture, which is unique in this area of Anne Arundel County.

The history of the physical structures at the House of Correction is closely linked to the penal reform movements in Maryland in the mid-19th century. By the early 1870s, Maryland citizens, spearheaded by a very active Maryland Prisoners' Aid Association, recognized that the already overcrowded Penitentiary and city jail (dating from 1811 and 1859, respectively) could no longer adequately respond to the growing numbers of lesser offenders arrested for drunkenness, petty thievery, and other minor crimes. The Association drafted a bill to be presented to the State Legislature in 1874 recommending the establishment of "a workhouse founded on some practical plan of operation," teaching inmates some "honest pursuit" in a humane and healthy atmosphere.

An Act of the General Assembly (Laws of Maryland, 1874, Chapter 233, approved April 6, 1874) appropriated \$250,000 in the form of a special State loan for the purchase of land and construction of buildings for a House of Correction at some accessible point near the City of Baltimore.

The House of Correction was originally designed for 200 inmates confined for crimes or misdemeanors for periods of three months to three

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

Maryland House of Corrections
Anne Arundel County
Maryland
Significance

Continuation Sheet #3

years, during which time they were to be given some useful employment.

The Proceedings of the Board of Public Works (May 10, 1875) indicate that bids had been received for the construction of the House of Correction. George Frederick is named as "architect," apparently selected for the task some time earlier. The construction contract was originally offered by the State to Thomas Binyan and Company, but at a price below their bid amount. Since the State would neither increase the price of the contract nor alter some building specifications to lower costs, Binyan and Company declined (May 28, 1875). The contract was offered to the next lowest bidder, John I. Coddington, and was filed and approved by the Board on June 22, 1875. Bricks for the original part of the House of Correction used Jessup red clay from the local kilns of Daniel Donnelly.

From its establishment until the 1930s, prison shops made products for commercial use with the profits going to the State. This practice was discontinued after complaints from manufacturers that prison-made products were selling at below-market prices. Afterward, only those products to be used by the State were manufactured, such as cement, soap, paint, clothing, woodwork and canned goods. This move prompted the purchase of more land to give employment to inmates in farming. Farming was discontinued during the 1960s and lands were sold off to the Maryland State Police, the Patuxent Institution, the Correctional Institution for Women and the Correctional Camp Center, and the Maryland Wholesale Produce Market complex on the southeast corner of Route 1 and Route 175.

Local tradition holds that Jacob Coxey's "army" of 500 unemployed men who marched to the Capital from Philadelphia in May, 1894 seeking relief were arrested and jailed in the Maryland House of Correction for stealing from local farms. The warden at the House of Correction allegedly gave the group the task of elevating the low section of road leading from the main road to the institution in order to level it.

¹ Baltimore Sun, May 5, 1893.

RECOMMENDATION: Facility should be renovated to meet modern correctional services criteria, as described in the American Correctional Association Manual, or adapted for re-use in some other capacity.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anne Arundel County Land Records (see attached Chain of Title for references)
Vertical files of the Enoch Pratt Free Library.
Laws of Maryland, 1874-1958
Proceedings of the Board of Public Works, 1874-1928.
Carter, Gobel, Roberts, Inc., Architectural Consultants, Feasibility Study for Improving the House of Correction and Maryland Penitentiary, 1980.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 375 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE _____
Susanne Moore, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION _____ DATE _____
Maryland Historical Trust December, 1980

STREET & NUMBER _____ TELEPHONE _____
21 State Circle, John Shaw House (301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN _____ STATE _____
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

AA-768

Maryland House of Correction
Jessup

Continuation Sheet

Item 10

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The House of Correction is located in the northwest section of a 375-acre tract west of the B & O Railroad line, south of the Jessup to Elkton Road, and east of the service road from the public road to the House of Correction. Identified on Department of Assessments and Taxation Anne Arundel County Map # 13 as "Male House of Correction".

CHAIN OF TITLE

Maryland House of Correction
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

The Maryland House of Correction property was acquired over
the period 1874-1893 in seven separate parcels, as follows:

SH9/66

3 December 1874

Deed

From: George T. Warfield and Mary E. Warfield,
his wife

To: George William Brown, et al, Trustees

Conveying two lots, one 73 and the other 20
acres.

SH13/113

24 June 1878

Deed

From: Michael Bannon and Asa H. Bannon, his
wife

To: George William Brown, et al, Trustees

Conveying one lot, 7.5 acres

SH17/485

January 1880

Deed

From: Thomas I. White to George William

To: George William Brown, et al, Trustees

Conveying one lot, 22 acres

SH17/486

6 October 1880

Deed

From: W. H. Bians and H. S. Beeler and wife

To: George William Brown, et al, Trustees

Conveying one lot, 27 acres

CHAIN OF TITLE (Continued)

Maryland House of Correction
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

SH17/448
8 January 1881
Deed

From: John J. Snyder and Eliza Snyder, his
wife

To: George William Brown, et al, Trustees
Conveying one lot, 40.75 acres

SH 20/ 460
2 November 1882
Deed

From: Thomas M. NORris

To: George William Brown, et al, Trustees
Conveying a 6 acre strip for widening the
road from the Institution to Jessups' Cut

SH 44/648
11 October 1893
Deed

From: John W. Biggs

To: The Board of Managers of the Maryland
House of Correction

Conveying a 98 sq. P. parcel for widening
the road from the Institution to the public
road (Annapolis/Elkridge Road)



House of Correction 616.8 acres
 (Male and Female Institutions)
 Dept of Public Safety & Correctional
 Services
 USGS Map, Savage Quadrangle

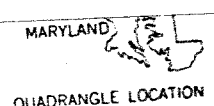
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
 Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt =====
 U. S. Route State Route

AA-768

SAVAGE, MD.

NE 1/4 LAUREL 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3907.5—W7645/7.5

1957



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ET
 1 OF 1929

JESSUP

p. 141

2

MARYLAND HOUSE OF CORRECTION AA-768
Dept of Assessments and Taxation
Anne Arundel County - Map 13
1" = 600'
Rev 1 Aug 1979

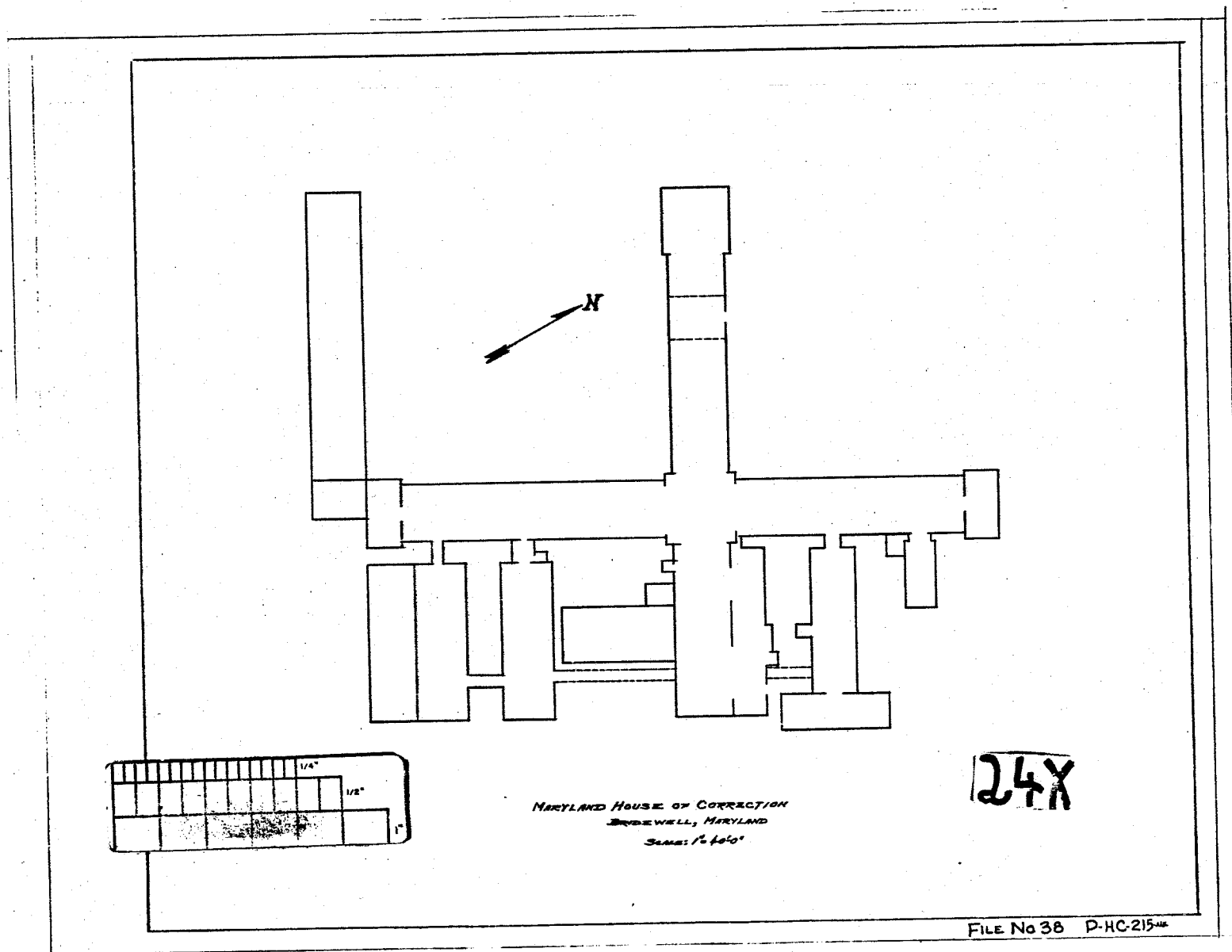
HOUSE OF MALE CORRECTION

SH 9/66
SH 17/485
GW 140/391

P. 86

ALBER
319

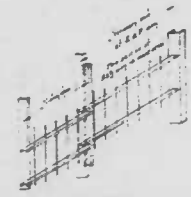
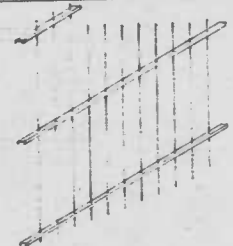
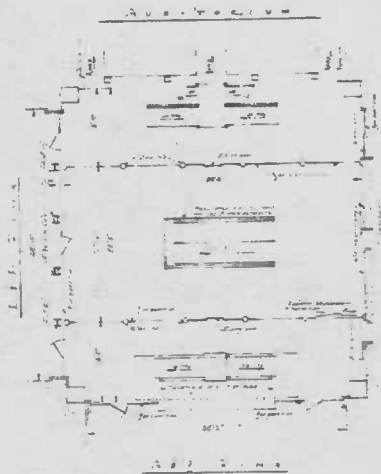
Rev 1 Aug 1977



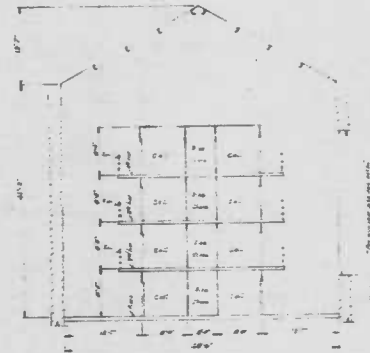
Maryland House of Correction AA-768
 Reduction from original on file at
 Md Dept of General Services

30X

AA-768



CELL FRONT AND REAR VIEW AS SHOWN & DETAIL
CELL FRONT AND REAR VIEW AS SHOWN & DETAIL



CELL FRONT AND REAR VIEW AS SHOWN & DETAIL
CELL FRONT AND REAR VIEW AS SHOWN & DETAIL

SECTION THROUGH BUILDING

CELL FRONT AND REAR VIEW AS SHOWN & DETAIL
CELL FRONT AND REAR VIEW AS SHOWN & DETAIL

CELL FRONT AND REAR VIEW AS SHOWN & DETAIL
CELL FRONT AND REAR VIEW AS SHOWN & DETAIL

STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS
APPROVED:
DESIGNED BY: J. A. HARRIS
DRAWN BY: J. A. HARRIS

REVISIONS

HEATING
HOUSE OF CORRECTION
MAIN BUILDING
DESIGNED BY: J. A. HARRIS
STATE OF MARYLAND
DRAWN BY: J. A. HARRIS

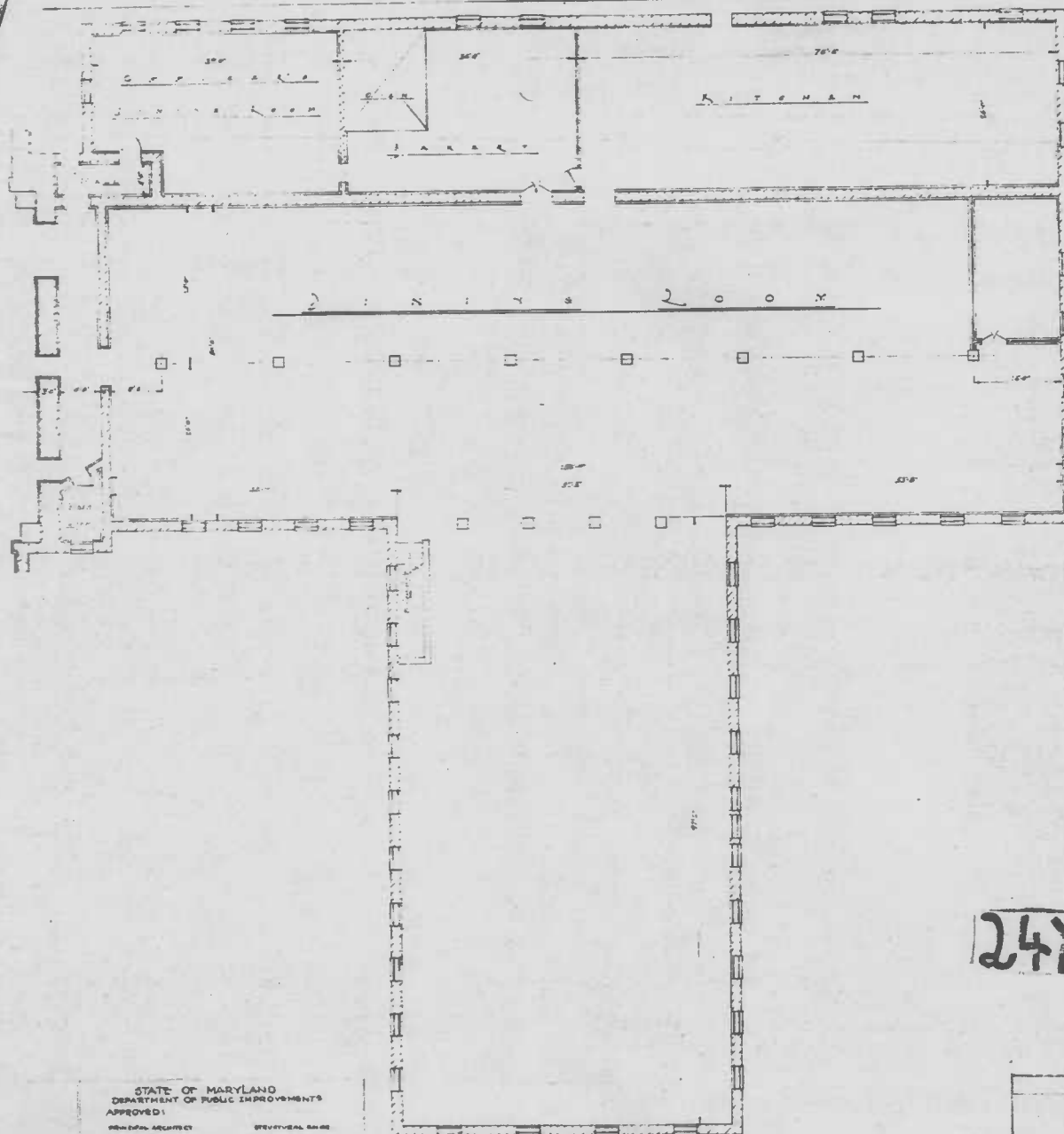
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DATE

FILE NO. 38 P-HC 249



30X

AA-768



24X



AA-768

APPROVED

BY

STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS
APPROVED:
ARCHITECT
MECHANICAL ENGINEER
ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
CHIEF ENGINEER OF MARYLAND

REVISIONS

HOUSE OF CORRECTION
MAIN BUILDING

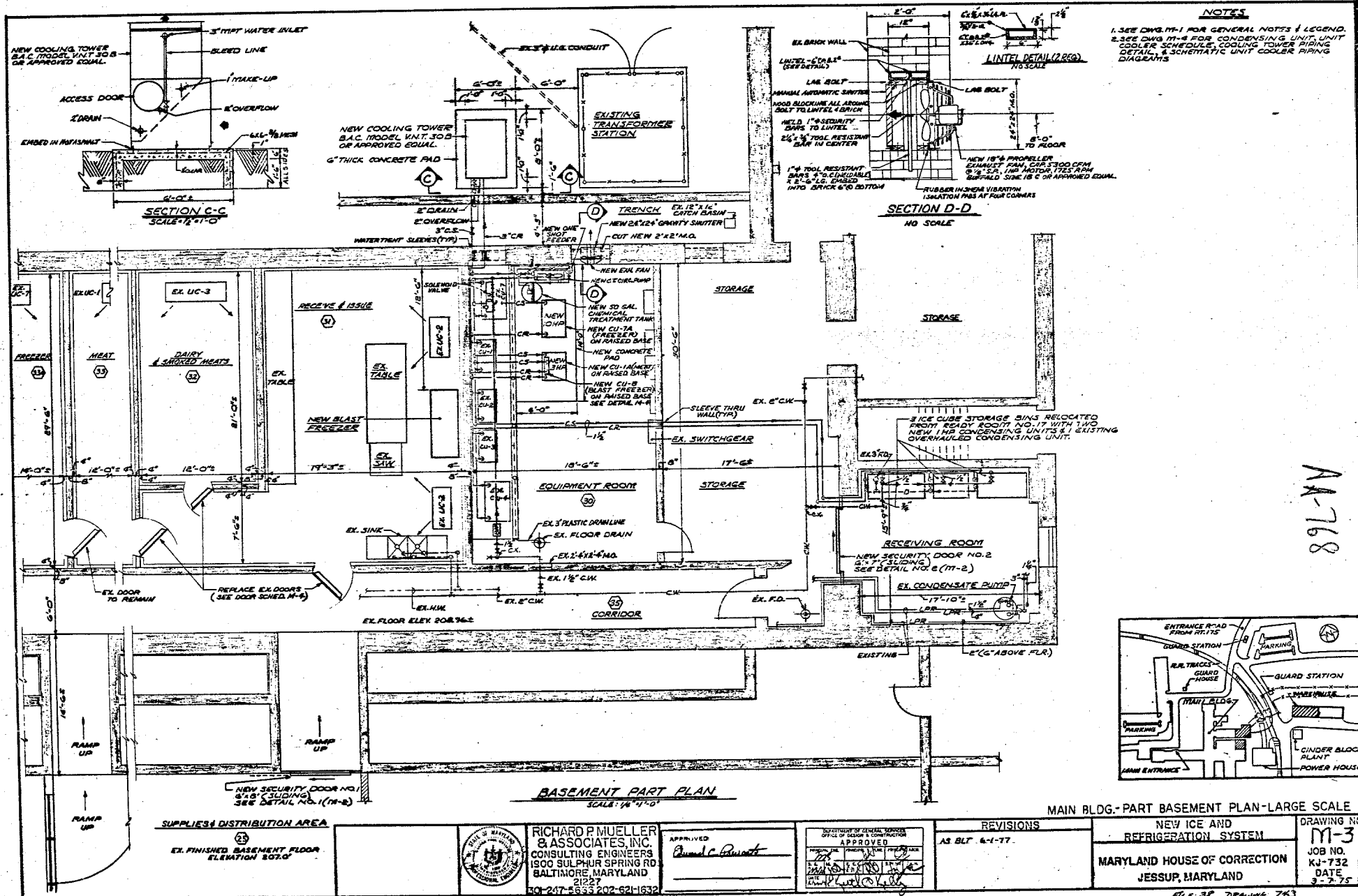
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS
STATE OF MARYLAND

DRAWN BY: J. S. CHECKED BY:

FILE NO. 38 P-HC

Sheet No. 7
of 7 sheets
Job No.
Date

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Maryland House of Correction AA-768
Anne Arundel County, Maryland
Susanne Moore
October 1980
Md Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md
Northeast corner, front facades of
original buildings
1/4



Maryland House of Correction AA-768
Anne Arundel County, Maryland
Susanne Moore
October 1980
Md Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md
Southeast corner of original building
2/5



Maryland House of Correction AA-768
Anne Arundel County, Maryland
Susanne Moore
October 1980
Md Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md
East facade
3/4



Maryland House of Correction AA-768
Anne Arundel County, Maryland
Susanne Moore
October 1980
Md Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md
Southwest corner
4/5



Maryland House of Correction
Anne Arundel County, Maryland
Susanne Moore
October 1980

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Md Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md
Southwest corner (distant view)
5/5